GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3539
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
INDIA`S ROLE IN WEST ASIA PEACE PROCESS
B.K. PARTHASARATHI;SUKENDER REDDY GUTHA;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is reviewing its options with regard to relations with Israel in the wake of Aeriel Sharon becoming the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role the country is likely to play for lasting peace in West Asia?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a), (b) & (c) Government`s policy is to continue to pursue relations with Israel on matters of national interest and to support initiatives aimed at bringing peace to the region. Government is vitally interested in peace, stability and development in West Asia, which lies in India`s extended neighbourhood.

Government of India have been in touch with the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships on developments in West Asia and continue to maintain that the issues involved are of great complexity and sensitivity. Therefore, it is important for all parties to exercise restraint, avoid provocation, and desist from acts, which destabilise the prospects for peace.